

that talks about more substantive issues.

Even though these are important to the individuals involved, the Nation is in a very critical time, and for us to be spending the majority of our time in the last few years actually doing things that the average citizen would say were not critical, I think that this is one time we can get together and say this process needs to be reformed, and hopefully in January we will not be going through a day like we just did.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from the Federal district for working with me today on these items.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman as well, and again I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6387.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6399) to improve certain administrative operations of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6399

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSOLIDATION OF STAFF POSITIONS.

(a) CONSOLIDATION.—Section 108 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 1849) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 108. The Architect of the Capitol may fix the rate of basic pay for not more than 32 positions at a rate not to exceed the highest total rate of pay for the Senior Executive Service under subchapter VIII of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, for the locality involved.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1203(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1805(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to pay periods beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO ACQUIRE BUILDING.

(a) AVAILABILITY.—The amounts described in subsection (b) shall be available to the Architect of the Capitol for the acquisition (through purchase, lease, transfer from another Federal entity, or otherwise) of real property for the use of the Capitol Police.

(b) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts described in this subsection are amounts ap-

propriated to, and remaining available for obligation by, the Architect of the Capitol under the heading “Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Police Buildings and Grounds” or under the heading “Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Police Buildings, Grounds and Security” in any Act making appropriations for the legislative branch for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the measure now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does two things: First, over time Congress has passed five laws creating three categories of senior management positions in the Architect's Office. The five laws specify the number of positions in each category, their functions and compensation. The creation of multiple categories with different pay caps can yield undesirable effects, including the possibility of employees earning more than supervisors. This patchwork hinders the Architect's flexibility to align senior positions equitably across the agency and to make broad organizational changes.

This bill combines the affected positions into one category for administrative purposes capped at a single rate of pay. The Architect requested this sensible provision, which solves the problem that Congress never intended to create.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the bill provides the Architect with the authority to purchase a vehicle maintenance facility for the U.S. Capitol Police. Congress has previously appropriated the money, and there is no additional cost.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I urge support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BRADY for bringing this bill to the floor. This bill provides the Architect of the Capitol with two administrative remedies in order to provide better management of the Capitol complex.

First, the bill gives the Architect of the Capitol more flexibility in his allocation of senior staff positions. Currently there is an arbitrary limitation in place.

Second, the bill authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to purchase a building that they have been leasing for some time. The building is currently

used for United States Capitol Police vehicle maintenance and is also used as USCP headquarters for the hazardous device unit.

This money has already been appropriated, and this resolution provides the appropriate authorization needed from our committee of jurisdiction.

I thank Chairman BRADY for bringing this bill to the floor, and I am pleased to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker I urge an aye vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6399.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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CONGRATULATING NASA FOR HELPING TO RESCUE CHILEAN MINERS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1714) congratulating the engineers, scientists, psychologists, and staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for helping to successfully rescue 33 trapped Chilean miners from a collapsed mine near Copiapo, Chile.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1714

Whereas, on August 5, 2010, 33 Chilean miners were trapped by the collapse of a gold and copper mine near Copiapo, Chile;

Whereas, on August 22, 2010, all 33 miners were discovered alive after an intensive 17-day rescue effort;

Whereas, on August 27, 2010, the Chilean government asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to provide technical advice that might be of assistance to the trapped miners;

Whereas NASA's vast knowledge and experience with extreme isolation, analog missions, undersea environments, and space flight uniquely suited the agency to help with this historic rescue;

Whereas sustaining, supporting, and rescuing the trapped miners was an extremely challenging task;

Whereas, on August 30, 2010, NASA employees from the Johnson and Langley Space Centers traveled to Chile to assist with the rescue efforts;

Whereas the NASA team worked closely with the Chilean government, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Mining, the Chilean Navy, and the Chilean Space Agency;

Whereas NASA assisted the Chilean government by sharing knowledge acquired during space flight missions for the provision of medical care and psychological support in extreme isolation;